

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 223954

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: IN, SPOP, PINT

SUBJECT: FAMILY PLANNING IN INDIA

(A) NEW DELHI 12090 (B) NEW DELHI 12264
(C) NEW DELHI 12972

1. THE POSTS' REPORTING TO DATE ON FAMILY PLANNING IN INDIA HAS BEEN MOST COMPREHENSIVE AND HELPFUL TO DEPARTMENT. BECAUSE OF PUBLIC AND PRESS INTEREST, HOWEVER, WE WOULD APPRECIATE AN UPDATE ON THE MAHARASHTRA COMPULSORY STERILIZATION LEGISLATION. REF A ADVISED THAT THE BILL WAS PASSED BY THE GOM LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL JULY 26 AND WAS BEING REVIEWED BY THE CENTRAL GOVERNMENT BEFORE SUBMISSION TO THE PRESIDENT FOR APPROVAL. REFS B AND C NOTED PRESIDENT AHMED'S REPUTED OPPOSITION TO COERCION AND THE PRIME MINISTER'S SEPTEMBER STATEMENT IN PARLIAMENT INDICATING INDIAN GOVERNMENT POLICY IS NOT TO EMPLOY COMPULSORY STERILIZATION IN FAMILY PLANNING PROGRAMS.

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2. DO WE KNOW WHERE THE MAHARASHTRA LEGISLATION NOW STANDS IN THE GOI REVIEW PROCESS? HAS A RECOMMENDATION BEEN FORWARDED TO THE PRESIDENT? HAVE PROSPECTS FOR ITS APPROVAL BY THE CENTER BEEN DIMMED IN RECENT WEEKS AS A

RESULT OF THE LOCAL DISTURBANCES REPORTED BY THE EMBASSY AND CONSULATES? ANY INFORMATION BEARING ON THESE QUESTIONS WOULD BE APPRECIATED. KISSINGER

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